

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MONROV 06016 021146Z

11  
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-25 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /150 W  
----- 013526

O 021043Z NOV 73  
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9997  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

S E C R E T MONROVIA 6016

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, XA, XF, LI, IS  
SUBJECT: AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST: LIBERIA TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

REF: A. MONROVIA 5989 (NOTAL); B. MONROVIA 5984 (NOTAL);

C. MONROVIA 5921; D. MONROVIA 5875; E. MONROVIA 5874

1. PRESIDENT TOLBER INVITED ME TO THE EXECUTIVE MANSION  
AT 8:30 A.M. TODAY AND INFORMED ME THAT HE HAD RELUCTANTLY  
COME TO THE DECISION THAT LIBERIA MUST SEVER DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. HE CHARACTERIZED THE DECISION AS  
BEING "FORCED TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE MIDDLEEAST WHICH  
HURTS ME." SAID RELATIONS WILL REMAIN SEVERED UNTIL SUCH  
TIME AS ISRAEL RELINQUISHES ALL ARAB TERRITORIES NOW HELD  
IN CONTRAVENTION OF UN RESOLUTIONS. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MONROV 06016 021146Z

WILL BE MADE LATER TODAY.

2. HIS BASIC REASON FOR DECISION IS HIS BELIEF HE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO BE POUT OF STEP WITH HIS OAU COLLEAGUES. SAID IF HE DOES NOT DO WHAT "OTHER OAU COLLEAGUES ARE DOING IN EXPRESSING THEIR SOLIDARITY IN KEEPING WITH AN UNDERSTANDING REACHED AT THE LAST OAU MEETING," HIS POSITION AS AN AFRICAN LEADER WOULD BE GREATLY DIMINISHED, AS WOULD LIBERIA'S WORLD IMAGE. TOLBERT EXPRESSED THIS IN AT LEAST THREE FORMULATIONS DURING THE CONVERSATION, EMPHASIZING THAT IT WAS NOT WHAT HE WANTED TO DO BUT WHAT HE FELT HE MUST DO. ADDED THAT HE COULD NOT AFFORD TO BE ISOLATED FROM HIS OAU COLLEAGUES AND THAT IT WOULD BE "TREMENDOUSLY EMBARRASSING" TO BE "OUT OF TUNE."

3. TOLBERT ASKED FOR USG UNDERSTANDING OF HIS POSITION. EMPHASIZED THAT THIS STEP DID NOT ALTER HIS FEELINGS OF FRIENDSHIP FOR ISRAEL OR HIS BELIEF IN ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST. SAID PEOPLE OF ISRAEL KNOW LIBERIA'S POSITION AND HOPED THEY WOULD UNDERSTAND NECESSITY FOR THIS ACTION.

4. I EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF THE REASONING WHICH LED TO THE DECISION, BUT EXPRESSED REGRET THAT GOL HAD FOUND IT NECESSARY TAKE THIS ACTION. I REVIEWED ARGUMENTS USED IN PREVIOUS MEETING WITH HIM (REF B). POINTED OUT THAT THE ISOLATION HE FEARED WAS ALSO BEING FOISTED UPON ISRAEL BY THE AFRICAN STATES AND COULD CAUSE ISRAEL TO BECOME LESS WILLING TO LISTED TO AFRICA. SAID I HAD HOPED THAT GOL WOULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE PEACEKEEPING FORCE RATHER THAN TAKE THIS STEP. TOLBERT SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTED HIS UN PERMREP TO MAKE OFFER TO SYG FOUR DAYS AGO. AS OF THIS MORNING, HAS RECEIVED NO RESPONSE.

5. TOLBERT SAID HE HAD SPENT MOST OF LAST NIGHT CONSIDERING THIS DECISION, TOGETHER WITH CHIEF JUSTICE, VICE PRESIDENT, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. PLANS TO INFORM FULL CABINET LATER TODAY AS WELL AS ISRAELI AMBASSADOR. (ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN ASKED TO MEET WITH FONMIN DENNIS AT 11:00 A..M.).

6 AFTER THE MEETING DCM ASKED FONMIN DENNIS WHETHER  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MONROV 06016 021146Z

ISRAELI'S WOULD BE EXPECTED TO REMOVE THEIR ENTIRE MISSION FROM MONROVIA. DENNIS DID NOT ANSWER THE QUESTION DIRECTLY SAYING "WE ARE NOT GOING TO TELL THEM TO GET OUT IN A HURRY. WE'LL GIVE THEM ALL THE TIME THEY NEED TO GET THEIR AFFAIRS IN ORDER."

7. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT SURPRISED AT DECISION, BUT WE DO FIND THE TIMING RATHER ODD. WE HAD THOUGHT GOL'S OCTOBER

30 STATEMENT (REF A) WAS CONSIDERED BY GOL TO HAVE BOUGHT  
IT SOME TIME. NO DOUBT KENYA'S SEVERANCE AND ANTICIPATION  
THAT IVORY COAST WILL SOON FOLLOW SUIT FORCED TOLBERT OVER  
THE PRECIPICE. TOLBERT'S MANNER OF PRESENTATION AND  
DEMEANOR DURING COVERSTATION SUGGESTS THAT HE SINCERELY  
REGRETS TAKING THIS ACTION BUT HAS BEEN CONVINED THAT HE  
HAS NO OTHER CHOICE.  
MANFULL

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973MONROV06016  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** MONROVIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731159/aaaabqzr.tel  
**Line Count:** 123  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A. MONROVIA 5989 (NOTAL); B. MONROVI, A 5984 (NOTAL);  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30-Jan-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST: LIBERIA TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XA, XF, LI, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005